

**Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group**  
**Conference call: 12/20/11 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Objective:** Provide advice to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project on salmonids and green sturgeon. DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>

**DWR:** Angela Llaban, Mike Ford, Edmund Yu, Kevin Reece, Andy Chu, James Gleim, Reza Shahcheraghi

**FWS:** Leigh Bartoo, Roger Guinee, Craig Anderson

**NMFS:** Barbara Rocco, Jeff Stuart, Bruce Oppenheim, Garwin Yip

**Reclamation:** Josh Israel, Russ Yaworsky

**DFG:** Bob Fujimura

**EPA, SWRCB:** not present

**Agenda**

1. Fish monitoring
2. Current operations
3. New DFG reporting spreadsheet
4. Annual review panel report and joint response letter

**Action Item [11/15/11]**

Evaluate the data from Mill and Deer Creek RSTs, Tisdale, and Knights Landing RSTs and compare the timing of spring-run Chinook salmon migration captured by each data set. **Carry until we get Mill and Deer Creek data overview from DFG.**

**Action item [12/13/11]:** Fujimura will send a notice to the DOSS members with the FTP site access information when it is ready later this week (12/16/11). **Done—see notes below.**

**Fish Monitoring:** The following table presents fish monitoring data 12/12/11 through 12/19/11. Unless otherwise noted, reported sizes are fork length. See:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>

Location	Chippis Is. Midwater Trawl	Sacramento Kodiak Trawl	Mossdale Kodiak Trawl	Beach Seines	Knights Landing RST	Tisdale Weir RST
Sample Date	12/12, 14, 16	12/12, 14, 16	12/12, 14, 16	12/12–12/16	12/12, 14, 16, 18, 19	12/12, 14, 16, 19
Total Catch	27	0	0	25	0	3
FR				17		
WR						3
SR				7		
Ad-Clipped						

<b>Chinook</b>						
<b>DS</b>	27 (51-71 mm)			1 (65 mm)		
<b>Splittail</b>						
<b>Longfin</b>						
<b>SH (ad-clip)</b>						
<b>SH (wild)</b>						
<b>W. Temp. (avg. °F)</b>	48.7	48.0	47.8	48.4	48.2	47.0
<b>Flows (avg. cfs)</b>					5,255	5,324
<b>Turbidity (avg. NTU)</b>					12.3 (Increasing)	8.74
<b>WR/LFR Avg. CPUE</b>					0	0.16652249
<b>FR/SR Avg. CPUE</b>						

**Key:** FR = Fall run; LFR = Late-fall run; SR = Spring run; WR = Winter run; SH = Steelhead; DS = Delta smelt; LFS = Longfin smelt; SPTL = Splittail, CPUE = catch per unit of effort, ACT = acoustical tag

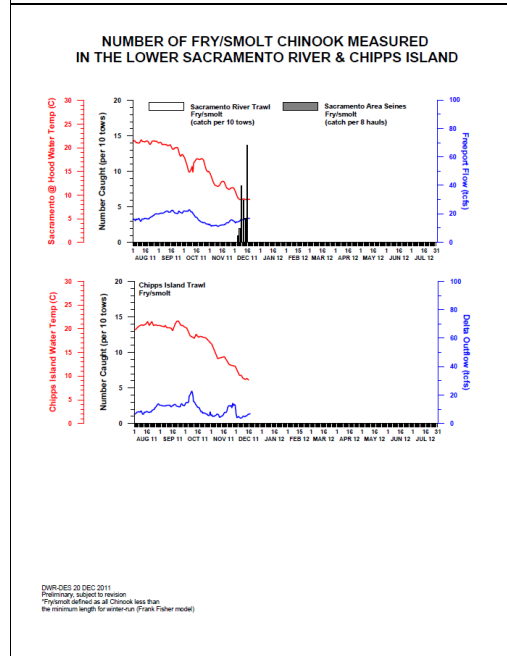
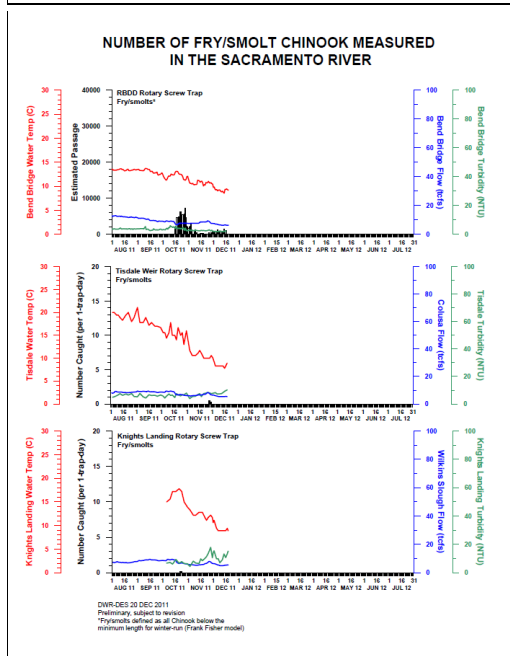
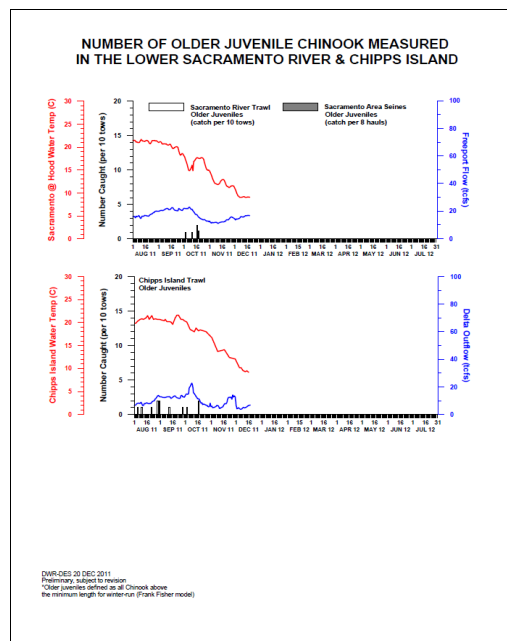
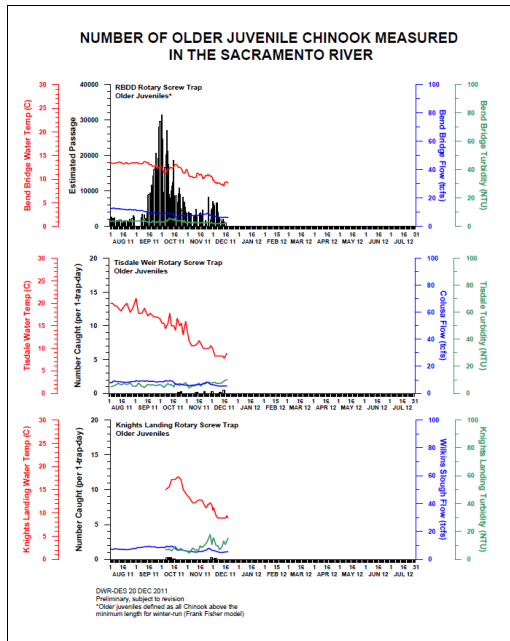
DCC gate closure: RPA Action IV.1.1 (page 60 of the 2009 RPA with 2011 amendments) DOSS discussed whether or not turbidity was a trigger for juvenile Chinook downstream emigration used in making the DCC gate closure decision. Upstream water temperature and increased flow are, but not turbidity. There is a turbidity trigger for delta smelt in the Delta.

Chippis Island trawl: FWS is back to sampling 3 days/week and is maintaining a daily delta smelt catch limit of no more than 10/day and staying under the 1,000 annual catch limit for the IEP program.

Beach Seines: 19 of the Chinook salmon were caught at Verona, three at Clarksburg, one at Elkhorn, and one at Garcia Bend. There appears to be a few fall-run Chinook moving down into the Delta. Chinook are being sampled in the seines but not in trawls, which could be because they are small and prefer the sides of the river instead of the middle where the trawls operate.

Coleman National Fish Hatchery Releases: Half of the late-fall-run production was released on 12/16/11 in Battle Creek; the remaining half will be released on 1/3/12. There will be a spring-run surrogate release of 62,000 with an average size of 135 mm on 12/23/11; these will be released in Battle Creek. The fish will most likely move downstream to the Delta fairly quickly, and may be detected at the Knights Landing sampling location within a week and a half; however, they will most likely not migrate through the Delta and be salvaged at the fish facilities that soon, especially with the DCC closed.

Below are the graphs prepared by DWR (Llaban) for the capture of older juvenile salmon in the Sacramento River and Chippis Island trawls. Also included are graphs of the number of fry/smolts measured at all locations.



## Fish Salvage Data (12/12/11–12/18/11)

**Chinook:** One late-fall-run Chinook (non-clipped) was observed at the Federal facility for an expanded salvage of 4 (reduced sampling time due to debris load), but not at the state facility. No other runs of Chinook have been salvaged at either facility this water year (10/01/2011 to present). The seasonal (10/1/2011 to present) expanded salvage totals of all races of Chinook at the Federal facility are zero adipose clipped (loss = 0), and 9 non-clipped (loss = 5.64).

**Steelhead:** No steelhead were salvaged at either facility. The seasonal expanded salvage totals of steelhead at the state facility are zero clipped and four non-clipped. No steelhead have been salvaged at the Federal facility this water year.

Delta smelt: No delta smelt have been salvaged at either facility this water year.

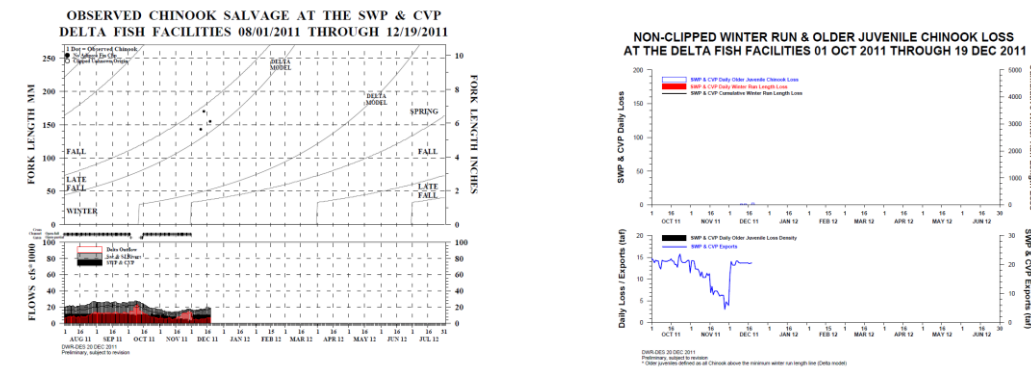
Longfin smelt: No longfin smelt have been salvaged at either facility this water year.

Splittail: Splittail were salvaged at the state facility (weekly salvage = 12), but not at the Federal facility. The seasonal salvage total of splittail at the Federal facility is 173. The seasonal salvage total of splittail at the state facility is 3,654.

White sturgeon: No white sturgeon were salvaged at either facility. The seasonal salvage total of white sturgeon at the Federal facility is 60. No white sturgeon have been salvaged at the state facility this water year.

Green sturgeon: No green sturgeon have been salvaged at either facility this water year.

Fujimura (DFG) sent out preliminary tables on reporting for DOSS' input. Oppenheim (NMFS) and Llaban (DWR) have been reviewing it and will get it into a format that the DOSS members can use. These tables will make it easier to track salvage this year. If anyone has any comments, please let Fujimura know. Everything that has been sent out has also been place on the following FTP site: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx>. Click on "salvage FTP site" and locate table under the folder named "DOSS salvage tables".



## Operations (12/20/11)

SWP		CVP	
Exports (cfs)			
Clifton Court Forebay	5,000	Jones Pumping Plant	4,000 (might be full in SLR by 12/30 based on current rate; would reduce by 2 units, or 1,800 cfs)
Reservoir releases (cfs)			
Feather - Oroville	4,000 (down from 6,500)	American - Nimbus	2,000 (will remain through end of month and lower to 1,750 cfs on 1/1)
		Sacramento - Keswick	5,000 (with dry conditions, may reduce to 4,500; on track for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> driest

			December on record)
		Stanislaus - Goodwin	500
<b>Reservoir Storage (in TAF, % of capacity)</b>			
San Luis ( SWP)	963	San Luis (CVP)	912 (94)
Oroville	2,594 (73)	Shasta	3,126 (69)
		Folsom	438 (45)
		New Melones	
<b>Delta Operations</b>			
DCC	Closed (since 12/1/11)	Sacramento River at Freeport (cfs)	16,717
Outflow Index (cfs)	8,300	San Joaquin River (cfs) at Vernalis	1,820
Total Delta Inflow (cfs)	19,231	OMR (daily) (CDEC) (cfs)	
Water Temperature (°F)		OMR 5 day (CDEC) (cfs)	
X2 (km)	81	OMR 14 day (CDEC) (cfs)	
E/I	51.0 ( 3-day avg.)		

It was mentioned that there had been a rating curve change at the Vernalis gage maintained by USGS; consequently, there was a somewhat abrupt increase of approximately 300 cfs (San Joaquin River).

Delta conditions: Balanced

X2: The tides increase in the Delta next week; DWR will continue to monitor them and make an export adjustment if necessary. Export pumping is being controlled by a combination of salinity and Delta outflow standards. With less water entering the Delta, the projects can't move as much water through the export facilities. DWR also anticipates that salinity will increase with the tide; therefore, it will be monitored carefully.

Weather forecast: The 10 day forecast shows only about 1/10 inch precipitation in Sacramento on 12/29-12/30; nothing much else in the way of storms within the next 2 weeks.

### **Smelt Working Group (SWG)**

The SWG will meet briefly on Tuesday morning to review the data and is planning to have a conference call on 1/3/2012 unless something comes up before then that prompts a meeting.

### **Fall Midwater Trawl**

There is no precise date when this will begin.

### **Update on JPE**

NMFS received the official winter-run Chinook escapement estimate from DFG on 12/12/11: 824 adults (including those that will be used as broodstock at Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery). Oppenheim will meet with Llaban (DWR) and Israel (Reclamation) later this week to discuss possible changes to the calculation of JPE for this year.

### **Annual Review**

The Delta Science Program posted on its website the independent review panel report, which was attached to the DOSS reminder email. Because of some glitches in the new email setup at NOAA, some DOSS members did not receive the emails; however, the report is also attached to

these notes. A letter from the joint Federal agencies (Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and NMFS) to the Delta Science Program acknowledges receipt of the report and states that the recommendations will be reviewed. DOSS recommendations begin on page 25 of the report. DOSS members should review the recommendations specific to DOSS to see what can be done this year and also provide feedback to the DOSS. The Federal agencies will send a follow-up letter to the Delta Science Program with more detailed responses to the recommendations.

**DOSS advice to WOMT and NMFS:** None

**Holiday schedule:** It was decided that the notes and various data, including salvage reports, would be sent out in advance in lieu of scheduling a conference call for 12/27/11 given that so many members would be on leave. If there is a concern, DOSS would call an “emergency” meeting for later next week. Emergency contacts identified are Bruce Oppenheim, Bob Fujimura, Joshua Israel (c: 916-296-8792), and Roger Guinee. If no concerns are raised, DOSS would meet again on 1/3/12.

**Next Meeting:** January 3, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.